



15000 Arnold Drive P.O. Box 1493 Eldridge, CA 95431

OFFICE OF THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

Sonoma Developmental Center's Annual Horse Show

Eldridge, California – Sonoma Developmental Center's Annual Horse Show will occur on Saturday May 21, 2011.

The Annual Horse Show for the residents who reside at Sonoma Developmental Center (SDC) will occur on Saturday May 21, 2011 from 9:30am to 12:00pm at the outdoor equestrian arena at the facility. There are approximately 50 people from the center who will be participating at the Equestrian Sporting event. All the riders participating in the event win ribbons, with their families and friends cheering them on. The individuals are judged on how they mount the horse as well as equitation (the practice of riding a horse). However, the judge does take into consideration the developmental limitations of each rider.

SDC's Equestrian Program has been in existence since the early 1980's. The Equestrian Program Coordinator, Nancy Sessi-Tallent has provided the individuals who reside here, with skills that increase the student's confidence and pride, as well as instilling a sense of accomplishment. Nancy is also the Coordinator of the Annual Horse Show. The program also teaches discipline, respect for oneself, kindness towards animals and consideration for others. Horsemanship frees the student to feel independent and provides a common ground for interpersonal relationships.

The program offers riding on Tuesday afternoons, and every other Friday mornings and Saturday mornings and occurs all year round. SDC employees referred to as riding instructors, as well as volunteers, support the program. The riding instructors provide assistance with mounting, riding, exercising and dismounting. Students in the program also learn skills in horse care, such as grooming and feeding. All horses have been specially trained to be familiar with physical or emotional limitations, wheelchairs, special mounting ramps and the ability to be mounted from either side. Only horses thoroughly tested for reliability are used for recreational riding.

For information about volunteering at the Annual Horse Show or in the Equestrian Program or other volunteer opportunities at Sonoma Developmental Center, please contact the volunteer office at (707) 938-6213.

Sonoma Developmental Center, located in the heart of California's wine country, provides an extensive array of high-quality, innovative services. The Center promotes communication and collaboration with families, employees, community service providers, agencies, organizations, and other partners to innovatively develop, advance, and deploy eminent models of service distinction by fostering independence in health, housing, vocation, education, lifelong learning, intervention, recreation, and transportation.

For More Information Contact:

Sonoma Developmental Center

Jorge JJ Fernandez

(707) 938-6643

Fax Number: (707) 938-6574

Jorge.Fernandez@sonoma.dds.ca.gov

<http://www.dds.ca.gov/Sonoma/Index.cfm>

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